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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION
MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS
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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 5 November 1996 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the declaration signed in duplicate in Turkish and Russian on 21 October 1996 at Tashkent, at the end of the fourth summit meeting of the Heads of State of the Turkish-Speaking Countries.

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and the enclosed declaration would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under

agenda items 10, 41, 87, 94, 95, 96, 97, 102, 110 and 151, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIEV
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the Azerbaijani Republic

(Signed) Zamira ESHMAMBETOVA
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the Kyrgyz Republic

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador Extraordinary
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Permanent Representative of
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(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador Extraordinary
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Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakstan

(Signed) Aksoltan T. ATAEVA
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of Turkmenistan

(Signed) Alisher V. VOHIDOV
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Tashkent Declaration

[Original: Russian]

Mr. Heydar Aliyev, President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of the Republic of Kazakstan, Mr. Askar Akayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Saparmurat Niyazov, President of the Republic of Turkmenistan, and Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in accordance with the decision taken on 28 August 1995 at the summit meeting in Bishkek, held their fourth summit meeting on 21 October 1996 in Tashkent,

Confirming the continuity of the Ankara statement and the Istanbul and Bishkek declarations,

Noting with satisfaction the dynamic and progressive development of all-round cooperation in various fields between the Turkish-speaking States and peoples,

Acting in the name of strengthening peace, security and socio-economic progress,

Stressing once again their adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

On the basis of the principles of respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, equal rights and non-intervention in each other's internal affairs,

Striving for the further development of fraternal ties,

Complying with their obligations in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the universally accepted principles and norms of international law,

Having considered the state of the relations and the prospects for cooperation among their countries, and having exchanged views on a number of international and regional problems,

Declare:

1. The Heads of State expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral and multilateral relations among their countries in various fields and noted the need for the further expansion and intensification of those relations.

2. The Heads of State once again confirm their firm and immutable adherence to the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and the market economy.

3. Having expressed deep satisfaction with cooperation in the area of science, culture and education, the Heads of State called for the further expansion and strengthening of those ties between their countries and for the popularization of the great cultural and historical heritage of the Turkish peoples.

The Heads of State stressed that the TURKSOY organization has important tasks before it in the further development of cooperation based on the commonality of culture, language and spiritual values of the peoples of the Turkish-speaking countries, and consider it necessary to enhance the effectiveness of this organization.

4. The Heads of State, considering that the fourth summit meeting in Tashkent is taking place at a time of widespread celebration of the 660th anniversary of the great Amir Temür, once again stressed the need for the joint celebration of memorable dates associated with the life and activities of outstanding figures of world significance who have made a major contribution to the history and culture of the Turkish-speaking peoples.

The Heads of State instructed the TURKSOY organization to draw up a calendar of historic dates associated with Turkish civilization, to study the possibility of involving international cultural organizations, and in the first place the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in the celebrations, and also to look into the possibility of joint observance of the 1450th anniversary of the great Turkish kaganate and prepare a plan of action on this question for the fifth meeting of Heads of Turkish-Speaking Countries.

5. The Heads of State expressed their willingness to undertake the joint formulation and implementation of the programme "Restoration of the silk route: development of educational tourism, revival, preservation and stable development of the cultural heritage of the Turkish-speaking countries" in order to develop a network of tourist routes and corresponding tourist infrastructure and expand various moderately priced forms of tourism.

6. The Heads of State note with satisfaction the positive trends discernible in the area of information exchange, and called for a strengthening of cooperation between the information and communications media of their countries in publicizing, popularizing and disseminating the great cultural and historic heritage of the Turkish peoples.

In order to strengthen the links between the peoples of their countries and the exchange of experience in various fields, the Heads of State decided to strengthen ties between local administrations of the Turkish-speaking countries and non-governmental organizations.

7. The Heads of State called for the all-round development of trade and economic cooperation among the Turkish-speaking countries, the expansion of economic ties at various levels, the promotion of economic integration processes, the elimination of obstacles to joint trade and the establishment of a favourable legal regime for individuals and legal entities engaging in economic cooperation in order to create a single market for goods, services, capital and labour, without prejudice to their international obligations.

The Heads of State consider it necessary for the relevant State structures to take measures for the further simplification of customs and transit procedures and the elimination of obstacles which restrict and complicate mutual trade and financial and banking operations.

8. The Heads of State again emphasize the special importance of developing and extracting the rich natural resources of their countries, in the first instance natural gas, petroleum and hydro-energy resources, and called for urgent measures to conduct joint projects for laying pipelines and electricity transmission lines to deliver energy to world markets, with the involvement in these projects of the States concerned, international financial institutions and State and private structures.

The Heads of State note with satisfaction the work performed by the relevant State and international organizations in connection with the laying of an oil and gas pipeline through Turkey to the shores of the Mediterranean and in Europe.

9. The Heads of State, noting the need for the development of economic transport systems in the region, called for the early implementation of the 1996 Serakhs quadripartite agreements on transit and rail communications through the operation of a trans-Caucasus corridor, and welcomed the efforts of the European Union under the Transport Corridor - Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) projects. They also supported the initiative of establishing a Central Asia-Afghanistan-Pakistan transport route with access to the Indian Ocean as part of the North-South transport corridor.

10. The Heads of State call on the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and regional development banks to be more active, expanding their cooperation with recipient countries in developing action strategies in the transition period for each of the Turkish-speaking countries.

11. The Heads of State called for more effective measures to stimulate the economic growth of their countries:

- By investing in both capital and human resources, attaching special importance to raising the quality of basic and specialized education, the development of work skills, professional training and improvement of qualifications;

- By promoting the dissemination of new technologies that not only produce competitive products but also create jobs, especially in the small and medium-sized business sphere.

12. The Heads of State again noted the urgency of developing cooperation in the field of environmental protection, and called for the adoption of decisive measures on an international scale to stabilize the environmental situation in the Aral Sea region.

13. The Heads of State, expressing concern that the scale and rising trend of the illegal production of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and

psychotropic substances, and also at the possibility of the territory of the Turkish-speaking countries being used for their unlawful transit, confirm their readiness to take coordinated action to combat the narcotics business, and also to cooperate with respect to the international policy to control drug trafficking. In this connection, they note their concern that organized crime, which has become widespread especially during the 1990s, has close links with the narcotics business and terrorism and is a source of financing for terrorism.

14. The Heads of State, having expressed serious concern at the new resurgence of terrorism and separatism, strongly condemned terrorism and separatism, regardless of who engages in them and for what reason, as a serious infringement of human rights, expressed their full support for the measures being undertaken by the international community to combat these phenomena, and noted the need for them to be rapidly and extensively implemented. The Heads of State again underlined the need for international cooperation to combat terrorism and separatism, which already knew no bounds.

15. The Heads of State expressed deep concern at the continuing conflicts, which are a consequence of the open violation of the principles of the United Nations and OSCE, and called for immediate observance of those principles.

16. The Heads of State confirmed the need for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, and noted that the failure to settle that conflict impairs the peace process and the strengthening of confidence and security in the region.

17. The Heads of State, underlining the need for systematic conduct of mutual consultations and organizational and technical studies and for monitoring of the implementation of the decisions adopted, agreed on the establishment of the Secretariat of the Meetings of Heads of State of the Turkish-Speaking Countries (SMHTC), the Statute of which the Ministers for Foreign Affairs were instructed to draw up. They assigned to the Secretariat functions relating to the preparation of materials for the meetings of the Heads of State of the Turkish-Speaking Countries and the leaders of their foreign policy departments, to the holding of seminars, conferences and symposiums to publicize the language, culture and achievements of the Turkish-speaking countries and to locating, selecting and preparing for publication historical literary sources on the life of the Turkish peoples in the past and the present.

18. The Heads of State emphasized that the Tashkent meeting, which took place in a frank and friendly atmosphere, would undoubtedly become an important milestone in the further development of cooperation between the Turkish-speaking States and also ensuring stability and peace in the region.

19. In accordance with the decision taken at the Ankara high-level meeting on the regular holding of meetings, the Heads of State agreed to hold the next meeting in the fourth quarter of 1997 in the capital of the Republic of Kazakstan.

20. This Declaration was signed on 21 October 1996 in Tashkent in six copies, each in the Turkish and Russian languages.

The President of the Azerbaijani Republic: Heydar ALIYEV

The President of the Republic of Kazakstan: Nursultan NAZARBAEV

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic: Askar ASKAYEV

The President of the Republic of Turkey: Süleyman DEMIREL

The President of Turkmenistan: Saparmurat NIYAZOV

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Islam KARIMOV